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all with success. These cases cover a great variety of complaints, mostly with nervous complications. Finally, all physicians are strongly advised to hypnotize no patient without his or her consent, to never do so save in the presence of a third person, and to suggest nothing not essential to therapeutic ends. These rules should be observed as safeguards of the physician's conscience and his professional honor.

Le somnambulisme provoqué, études physiologiques et psychologiques.

H. BEAUNIS, professeur de physiologie à la Faculté de Médecine de Nancy. Paris, 1886, 250 pp.

This well known author introduces this work with a chapter of statistics of liability, showing that for the somnambulist stages, concerning which tables by different observers have been most variable, the liability of the two sexes is about equal. Again, out of 744 hypnotic subjects, 23 were less than 7 years of age, and 59 were over 63 years old. That of the above total, 65 were between the ages of 7 and 14, and 87 between 14 and 21, is also significant for the possible role of hypnotization in education. Subjects were hypnotized with great care to avoid all muscular tension, and were told now that their heart beat more and more slowly, now faster and faster. The heart was made thus to vary between the extremes of 15.4 and 19.2 beats per second, the respiration rhythm remaining constant, all emotional excitement avoided, and the modification following almost immediately upon the suggestion. These observations, with facts like the famous Townsend case, that of Dr. Fothergill and the cases gathered by Tarchanoff, seem to show that in some subjects the will can act directly in retarding and perhaps accelerating the pulse, and suggest therapeutic effects, already found salutary in a few cases, in palpitation and other cardiac neuroses. Like Mabile, Dumontpallier and Focachon, Beaunis believes he has produced circumscribed cutaneous congestion, with local increase of temperature, passing to measurable swelling, and even vesication on the skin (generally of the forearm), by suggestion only. Dynamometric force in most cases (162 in 242) was reduced during provoked sleep. Hypnotic suggestion probably (the experiments are too few here to be conclusive) increases the acuteness of hearing, and reduces the reaction time for both tactile and auditory sensations.

In his interesting chapter on the nature of suggestion, and on spontaneity in the somnambulant state, the author shows himself in the main in accord with the other members of the school of Nancy. The theory of concentrated attention as represented by Braid, Carpenter, and Liebeault, is probably one of the most helpful phrases, but really explains little till we know more about what attention is. The conception of Durand de Gros (Dr. Philips) has the merit of trying to go deeper by suggesting that thought activity is reduced to its simple and isolated elements, so that mental action is suspended save at one point, while the nervous force accumulates to the point of congestion in the brain in general, and can be turned with unusually high pressure on to any organ or mode of action—this displacement by suggestion being termed *ideo-plasticity*. Beaunis says the primordial fact is the *action of arrest*, which may be either sudden cerebral shock, or gradual. In this state there is little or nothing in the mind which is not suggested immediately through the senses. The style of this book is clearness itself, and the material is well and conveniently grouped.